

REMARKS

Claims 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by EP 0 884 626 to Takeda et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Takeda et al. reference fails to disclose the claimed method for fabricating a liquid crystal display device that includes the step of “exposing and developing said resist film and forming a resist pattern having a shape on said pixel electrode pattern in which multiple branches extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem,” as defined in independent Claim 39 (emphasis added). One example of an embodiment of the claimed resist pattern with “multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem” is represented by resist pattern 34X of Figure 36T. Other examples of the claimed resist pattern, such as pattern 34Y of Figure 37, are shown and described in the present specification. Such branches help orient the liquid crystal molecules of perpendicular orientation in the proper direction.

In contrast to the claimed resist pattern of Claim 39, the resist pattern of the Takeda et al. reference does not have “multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem.” More specifically, patterns 20A and 20B of Figure 71 of the Takeda et al. reference are merely a plurality of parallel sets of lines bent to form apexes. Lines 20A and 20B cannot be considered as including the claimed multiple branches that extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem because patterns 20A and 20B lack, *inter alia*, a feature that resembles the claimed “stem.” The apex of either pattern 20A or of pattern 20B cannot be considered as a “stem.” In the entry for “stem” found in Merriam-Webster’s

Collegiate Dictionary (copy of entry enclosed), the most relevant definition is “something held to resemble a plant stem.” The apexes of patterns 20A and 20B cannot reasonably be considered as resembling a plant stem. The correct interpretation of the term “stem” is also reinforced by the context in which this term is used in Claim 39 (“multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem”). Additionally, none of the other portions of the Takeda et al. reference disclose the claimed step of forming a resist pattern in which “multiple branches extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem,” as defined in independent Claim 39. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicants request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 39 and associated dependent Claims 41 and 42.

Claims 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,959,763 to Bozler et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 40-42 all depend from independent Claim 39, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 39, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of dependent Claims 40-42 under Takeda et al. in view of Bozler et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 39, and also because Bozler et al. does not remedy the deficiencies mentioned above.

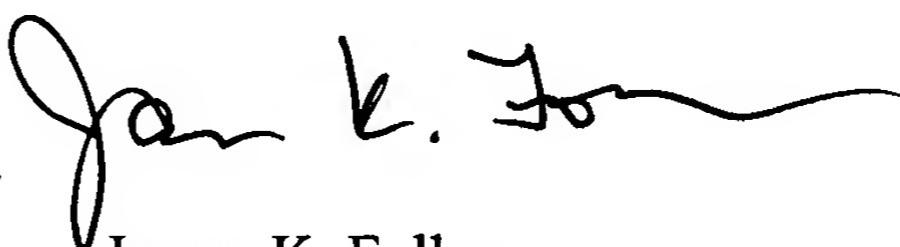
Claims 40 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,452,653 to Yamanaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 40 and 43 both depend from independent Claim 39, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 39, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of dependent Claims 40 and 43 under Takeda et al. in view of Yamanaka et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 39, and also because Yamanaka et al. does not remedy the deficiencies mentioned above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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stellate \ste-lät\ adj [L *stella*] (1661) : resembling a star (as in shape) *(a ~ leaf)*

Steller's jay \ste-lärz, 'shē-lärz\ n [Georg W. Steller †1746 Ger. naturalist] (1828) : a jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) of western N. America with a high crest and black and dark blue plumage

Steller's sea cow n (1814) : an extinct very large aquatic sirenian (*Hydrodamalis gigas*) formerly common near the Asian coast of the Bering Sea

stem \stem\ n [ME, fr. OE *stefn*, *stemn* stem of a plant or ship; akin to OHG *stam* plant stem and prob. to Gk *stamnos* wine jar, *histanai* to set — more at STAND] (bef. 12c) 1 a : the main trunk of a plant; specif. : a primary plant axis that develops buds and shoots instead of roots b : a plant part (as a branch, petiole, or stipe) that supports another (as a leaf or fruit) c : the complete fruiting stalk of a banana plant with its bananas. 2 a : the main upright member at the bow of a ship b : the bow or prow of a ship — compare STERN 3 : a line of ancestry 4 : STOCK; esp. : a fundamental line from which others have arisen 5 : the part of an inflected word that remains unchanged except by phonetic changes or variations throughout an inflection 6 : something held to resemble a plant stem: as a : a main or heavy stroke of a letter b : the short perpendicular line extending from the head of a musical note c : the part of a tobacco pipe from the bowl outward d : the cylindrical support of a piece of stemware (as a goblet) e : a shaft of a watch used for winding — from STEM to stern : THROUGHOUT. THOROUGHLY

stem vt stemmed; stem-ming [ME (Sc) *stemmen* to keep a course, fr. *stem* (of a ship)] (1593) 1 : to make headway against (as an adverse tide, current, or wind) 2 : to check or go counter to (something adverse) — **stem-mer** n

stem vb stemmed; stem-ming [*stem* (of a plant)] vi (1724) 1 : to remove the stem from 2 : to make stems for (as artificial flowers) ~ vi : to occur or develop as a consequence : have or trace an origin (her success ~s from hard work) syn see SPRING — **stem-mer** n

stem vb stemmed; stem-ming [ME *stemmen* to dam up, fr. ON *stemma*; akin to MHG *stemmen* to dam up and prob. to Lith *stumti* to shovel] vi (14c) 1 a : to stop or dam up (as a river) b : to stop or check by or as if by damming; esp. : STANCH (~ a flow of blood) 2 : to turn (a ski) in stemming ~ vi 1 : to restrain or check oneself; also : to become checked or stanched 2 : to slide the heel of one ski or of both skis outward usu. in making or preparing to make a turn

stem n (ca. 1700) 1 : CHECK. DAM 2 : an act or instance of stemming on skis

stem cell n (1885) : an unspecialized cell that gives rise to differentiated cells (hematopoietic stem cells in bone marrow)

stem christie n, often cap C (1936) : a turn in skiing begun by stemming a ski and completed by bringing the skis parallel into a christie

stem-less \stem-ləs\ adj (1796) : having no stem: ACAULENT

stem-ma \ste-mä\ n, pl **stem-ma-ta** \-mä-tə\ [L, wreath, pedigree (fr. the wreaths placed on ancestral images), fr. Gk, wreath, fr. *stephein* to crown, enwreathe] (1826) 1 : a simple eye present in some insects 2 : a scroll (as among the ancient Romans) containing a genealogical list 3 : a tree showing the relationships of the manuscripts of a literary work — **stem-mat-ic** \ste-'ma-tik, sta-\ adj

stemmed \stemd\ adj (1576) : having a stem — usu. used in combination (long-stemmed roses)

stem-my \ste-mē\ adj **stem-mi-er; -est** (1863) : abounding in stems

stem rust n (1899) 1 : a rust attacking the stem of a plant; esp. : a destructive disease esp. of wheat caused by a rust fungus (*Puccinia graminis*) which produces reddish brown lesions in the uredospore stage and black lesions in the teliospore stage and has any of several plants of the barberry family as an intermediate host. 2 : the fungus causing stem rust

stem turn n (1922) : a skiing turn executed by stemming an outside ski

stem-ware \stem-,war-, -wer\ n (1926) : glass hollowware mounted on a stem

stem-wind-er \-wind-ər\ n (1875) 1 : a stem-winding watch 2 [fr. the superiority of the stem-winding watch over the older key-wound watch]: one that is first-rate of its kind; esp. : a stirring speech

stem-wind-ing \-dīng\ adj (1867) : wound by an inside mechanism turned by the knurled knob at the outside end of the stem (a ~ watch) Sten \sten\ n [R. V. Sheppard, 20th cent. Eng. army officer + H. J. Turpin, 20th cent. Eng. civil servant + England] (1942) : a light simple 9-millimeter British submachine gun

sten- or steno- comb form [Gk, fr. *stenos*] : close : narrow : little (*stenobathic*)

stench \stench\ n [ME, fr. OE *stenc*; akin to OE *stincan* to emit a smell — more at STINK] (bef. 12c) : STINK — **stench-ful** \-fəl\ adj — **stenchy** \sten-chē\ adj

sten-cil \sten(ə)-sēl\ n [ME *stanselen* to ornament with sparkling colors, fr. MF *estanceler*, fr. *estancele* spark, fr. (assumed) VL *scincilla*, alter. of L *scintilla*] (1707) 1 : an impervious material (as a sheet of paper, thin wax, or woven fabric) perforated with lettering or a design through which a substance (as ink, paint, or metallic powder) is forced onto a surface to be printed 2 : something (as a pattern, design, or print) that is produced by means of a stencil 3 : a printing process that uses a stencil

stencil vt sten-ciled or sten-cilled; sten-cil-ing or sten-cil-ling \-s(ə)-līng\ (ca. 1828) 1 : to mark or paint with a stencil 2 : to produce by stencil — **sten-cil-er** or **sten-cil-ler** \-s(ə)-lər\ n

steno \ste-nō\ n, pl **steno-s** (1913) 1 : STENOGRAPHER 2 : STENOGRAFHY

steno-bath-ic \ste-nō-'ba-thik\ adj [steno- + Gk *bathos* depth] (1902) of a pelagic organism : living within narrow limits of depth

ste-nog-ra-pher \ste-nō-grā-fər\ n (1809) 1 : a writer of shorthand 2 : a person employed chiefly to take and transcribe dictation

ste-nog-ra-phy \-fē\ n (1602) 1 : the art or process of writing in shorthand 2 : shorthand esp. written from dictation or oral discourse 3 : the making of shorthand notes and subsequent transcription of them — **steno-graph-ic** \ste-nō-'gra-fik\ adj — **steno-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fi-k(ə)-lē\ adv

steno-ha-line \ste-nō-'hä-lēn, -'ha-lin\ adj [ISV sten- + Gk *halinos* of salt; fr. *hals* salt — more at SALT] (ca. 1920) of an aquatic organism : unable to withstand wide variation in salinity of the surrounding water

ste-nosed \ste-nōzd, -nōst\ adj [fr. pp. of *stenose* to affect with stenosis] (1897) : affected with stenosis

ste-no-sis \ste-nō-sēs\ n, pl **no-ses** \-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *stenōsis* act or narrowing, fr. *stenoun* to narrow, fr. *stenos* narrow] (ca. 1860) : a narrowing or constriction of the diameter of a bodily passage or orifice — **ste-not-ic** \-'nā-tik\ adj

steno-ther-mal \ste-nō-'thrā-məl\ adj (1881) : capable of surviving over only a narrow range of temperatures (~ fish) — **steno-therm** \ste-nō-'thērm\ n

steno-top-ic \ste-nō-tā-pik\ adj [prob. fr. G *stenotop* stenotopic, i sten- + Gk *topos* place] (1945) : having a narrow range of adaptability to changes in environmental conditions

steno-type \ste-nō-tip\ n [steno- (as in stenography) + type] (1922) : small machine somewhat like a typewriter used to record speech by means of phonograms — **steno-type** vt — **steno-typ-ist** \-ti-pist\ n

sten-tor \sten-tōr, -tōr\ n [L, fr. Gk *Stentōr* Stentor, a Greek herald the Trojan War noted for his loud voice] (1609) 1 : a person having a loud voice 2 : any of a widely distributed genus (*Stentor*) of ciliates having a trumpet-shaped body with the mouth at the broad end and with the narrow end often attached to the substrate

sten-to-ri-an \sten-tōr-ē-ən, -tōr-\ adj (1605) : extremely loud s see LOUD

step \step\ n [ME, fr. OE *stæpe*; akin to OHG *stapfo* step, *stampfō* stamp] (bef. 12c) 1 : a rest for the foot in ascending or descending a : one of a series of structures consisting of a riser and a tread b ladder rung 2 a (1) : an advance or movement made by raising the foot and bringing it down elsewhere (2) : a combination of foot and body movements constituting a unit or a repeated pattern (as in dance) (3) : manner of walking : STRIDE b : FOOTPRINT 1 c : sound of a脚步 (heard ~s in the hall) 3 a : the space passed over in one step b : a short distance (just a ~ away from the bank) 4 : height of one stair 5 a : a degree, grade, or rank in a scale b : a stage in a process (was guided through every ~ of my career) 6 : a framework designed to receive an upright shaft; esp. : a block supporting the heel of a mast 7 : an action, proceeding, or measure often occurring as one in a series (taking ~s to improve the situation) 8 : a step offset or part usu. occurring in a series 9 : an interval in a musical scale — **step-like** \lik\ adj — **stepped** \stept\ adj — in step : with each foot moving to the same time as the corresponding foot of others or in time to music 2 : in harmony or agreement — otherwise

step : not in step (out of step with the times)

step vb stepped; step-ping vi (bef. 12c) 1 a : to move by raising the foot and bringing it down elsewhere or by moving each foot in succession b : DANCE 2 a : to go on foot : WALK b obs. : ADVANCE 3 : to be on one's way : LEAVE — often used with along 4 : to move briskly (kept us stepping) 5 : to press down with the foot (as in the brake) 6 : to come as if at a single step (stepped into a good place) 7 : to take by moving the feet in succession (~ three pace) a : to move (the foot) in any direction : SET (the first man to ~s in the moon) b : to traverse on foot 8 : to go through the steps (~ the mast) 9 : to measure by steps (~ off 50 yards) 10 : to provide with steps b : to make steps in (~ a key) 11 : to construct or arrange in or as if in steps (craggy peaks with terraces stepped sides — Time) — **step on it** : to increase one's speed : hurry up

step-comb form [ME, fr. OE *stéop*; akin to OHG *stiof* step-, Old High German to deprive, bereave] : related by virtue of a remarriage (a parent) and not by blood (stepparent) (stepsister)

step-broth-er \step-,brō-thər\ n (15c) : a son of one's stepparent former marriage

step-by-step \step-bi-'step\ adj or adv (1701) : marked by successive degrees usu. of limited extent : GRADUAL

step-child \step-,child\ n (bef. 12c) 1 : a child of one's wife by a former marriage 2 : one that fails to receive proper attention (is no longer a ~ in the family of nations — F. R. Smith) step dance n (1887) : a dance in which steps are emphasized than gesture or posture

step-daugh-ter \step-,dō-tər\ n (bef. 12c) : a daughter of one's husband by a former marriage

step-down \step-,daūn\ n (1922) : a decrease or reduction in amount (a ~ in dosage)

step down vi (1890) : RETIRE, RESIGN ~ vt 1 : to lower (a voltage) by means of a transformer 2 : to decrease or reduce esp. by one's steps — **step-down** \step-,daūn\ adj

step-fam-i-ly \step-,fam-lē, -fa-mə-\ n (1966) : a family in which one is a stepparent

step-fa-ther \step-,fā-thər\ n (bef. 12c) : the husband of one's wife by a subsequent marriage

step function n (ca. 1929) : a mathematical function of a single variable that remains constant within each of a series of adjacent intervals but changes in value from one interval to the next

steph-a-no-tis \ste-fā-'nō-tēs\ n [NL, fr. Gk *stephanōtis* fit for a crown, fr. *stephein* to crown] (1843) : any of a genus (*Stephanotis* and esp. *S. floribunda*) of Old World tropical woody vines of the milkweed family with fragrant white flowers the corolla of which has a cylindrical dilated tube and spreading limb

step-in \step-,in\ n (1921) : an article of clothing put on by being stepped into: as a shoe resembling but usu. having a higher vamp than a pump and concealed elastic to adjust the fit b : short panties for women — usu. used in pl. — **step-in** adj

step in vi (15c) 1 : to intervene in an affair or dispute 2 : to make a brief informal visit

step-lad-der \step-,la-dər\ n (1751) : a ladder that has broad and two pairs of legs connected by a hinge at the top and tha the bottom to become freestanding

step-moth-er \-,ma-thər\ n (bef. 12c) : the wife of one's subsequent marriage



stephanotis